

HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PLANNER: COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ADDRESS PATIENTS DISCHARGED WITH AN OPIOID PRESCRIPTION

GOAL:

To reduce unintentional opioid overdoses and OPIOID habituation for patients discharged from an acute care hospital with an opioid prescription.

OPIOID OVERDOSE PROBLEM:

Three out of four drug overdose deaths in the U.S. involved an opioid, killing 28,000 people in 2014, of which more than half were from prescription opioids ([CDC](#)). Arizona, like other states, is in the midst this drug overdose epidemic, experiencing 1,211 drug overdose deaths in 2014 ([CDC](#)). There were 4,609 emergency department visits in 2014 from opioid misuse ([ADHS/Public Health Statistics](#)). Adults 55 to 64 years of age have the highest opioid-related mortality rate, followed by individuals 45 to 54 years of age. Prescription opiate inpatient hospitalization rates decreased by 1% since 2010, but increased 6% from 2013 to 2014. Prescription opiate poisoning emergency department visits decreased by 4% since 2010, but increased 2% from 2013 to 2014 ([ADHS Report - Poisonings Among Arizona Residents 2014](#)).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The Hospital Discharge Planner will ensure that EMS agency paramedics with a post-discharge follow-up component in their community paramedicine programs receive training in the following opioid-related topics:

- Understanding the Hospital Discharge Plan specific to pain management and opioid prescription use.
- Recognition of Opioid Prescription Non-Medical Use/Abuse Indicators in Recently Discharged Hospital Patients.
- Patient and Family Member Training on When and How to Administer Intranasal Naloxone.
- Providing Patients and Family Members on Safe Disposal of Opioid Medications & Prescription Drug Drop-Off Sites.

RESOURCES:

- [ADHS Clinicians Webpage: Clinical Guidelines & References - Opioid Prescribing Guidelines](#)
- [Arizona Guidelines for Dispensing Controlled Substances \(2013\)](#)
- [Arizona Opioid Prescribing Guidelines \(Nov. 2014\)](#)
- [Summary of Arizona Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for the Treatment of Acute Pain](#)
- [Controlled Substances Policies for Licensed Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [Prescription Drug Misuse & Abuse Resources](#)
- [Rx Drug Drop Off Locations](#)
- [Poisonings Among Arizona Residents 2014 \(ADHS Dec. 2015\)](#)